

Message Text

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FM AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN
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INFO AMEMBASSY HELSINKI
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AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK
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E.O.: 11652: N/A
TAGS: PEPR, PDIP, KN, DA (SONG, KIM CHOL)
SUBJ: NORTH KOREAN AMBASSADOR PRESENTS CREDENTIALS

1. THE NORTH KOREAN EMBASSY IN COPENHAGEN, UNDER A SMALL CARETAKER STAFF SINCE THE EXPULSION OF ITS AMBASSADOR AND HIS THEN-RESIDENT COLLEAGUES FOR SMUGGLING IN 1976, NOW HAS A NEW RESIDENT AMBASSADOR. ON JULY 31 (AFTER A SEVERAL WEEKS WAIT) QUEEN MARGRETHE RECEIVED THE CREDENTIALS OF KIM CHOL SONG.

2. THE COPENHAGEN PRESS GAVE KIM'S ACCREDITATION EXTENSIVE NOTICE. NEARLY ALL PAPERS REPORTED HE HAD TOLD DANISH WIRE SERVICE (RITZAU) THAT "CIA AND SOUTH KOREANS" WERE RESPONSIBLE FOR THE 1976 EXPULSIONS "IN ORDER TO HARM RELATIONS BETWEEN DENMARK AND NK"; SEVERAL REPORTED HIS REMARKS TO EFFECT "REUNIFICATION OF OUR COUNTRY WHICH HAS BEEN DIVIDED BY FOREIGN FORCES IS OUR PEOPLE'S GREATEST NATIONAL WISH;
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PAGE 02 COPENH 04977 021539Z

A TASK THAT MUST NOT BE DELAYED FURTHER". LIBERAL COPENHAGEN DAILY POLITIKEN PROVIDED BRIEF BIO (SEE BELOW) AND REPORTED KIM HAD SAID NK WISHES GET A CULTURAL AGREEMENT WITH DENMARK AND WISHES TO EXCHANGE STUDENTS.

3. KIM CHOL SONG TOLD POLITIKEN HE WAS POLITICAL ADVISOR IN NORTH KOREAN MFA FROM 1972-77, APPOINTED CONSUL GENERAL AT

SINGAPORE IN 1968, EMBASSY SECRETARY IN JAKARTA FROM 1962-67, HAVING ENTERED NORTH KOREAN MFA IN 1960. HE INDICATED HE WAS PAST 40 YEARS OLD.

4. COMMENT: DISCUSSION OF NEW NORTH KOREAN AMBASSADOR'S PRESENTATION OF CREDENTIALS, WHICH OCCURRED THE SAME DAY THAT AMBASSADOR MANSHEL PRESENTED HIS LETTERS OF CREDENCE, SERVES USEFULLY TO REMIND DANES OF THE BIZARRE BEHAVIOR THAT LED TO THE WELL-PUBLICIZED EXPULSION OF HIS PREDECESSOR AND STAFF. DANES ARE UNDER NO ILLUSIONS CONCERNING NATURE AND TEMPER OF NORTH KOREAN GOVT, BUT CHARACTERISTICALLY FELT THAT NORTH KOREA'S DESIRE TO RE-ESTABLISH AMBASSADORIAL RELATIONS AT COPENHAGEN COULD NOT BE INDEFINITELY SPURNED. (WHEN KIM AND TWO OTHER AMBASSADORS--IVORY COAST, DEAN OF THE DIPLOMATIC CORPS, AND POLAND--WHO ALL HAD BEEN WAITING TO PAY ARRIVAL OR FAREWELL CALLS LEARNED THAT THE QUEEN WAS INTERRUPTING HER SUMMER HOLIDAY TO RECEIVE AMBASSADOR MANSHEL, THEY APPLIED ALSO TO BE SEEN; DANISH AUTHORITIES AGREED RELUCTANTLY TO QUEEN'S RECEIVING THEM, HAVING CONCLUDED IT WOULD BE A "POLITICAL ACT" TO REFUSE.) DANISH AMBASSADOR TO PEKING, HANOI AND PYONGYANG, KJELD MORTENSEN, RESIDENT AT PEKING AND PRESENTLY ON HOME LEAVE, RECENTLY EMPHASIZED TO POLSECTCHIEF THAT DENMARK HAS NO RESIDENT DIPLOMATIC PERSONNEL IN PYONGYANG AND DOES NOT INTEND TO ASSIGN ANY, ALTHOUGH DENMARK IS ACCREDITING AN AMBASSADOR TO SEOUL, HITHERTO COVERED BY DIPLOMATIC PERSONNEL FROM TOKYO AND LOCAL CON-LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PAGE 03 COPENH 04977 021539Z

SULATE GENERAL.
MANSHEL

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NNN

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